ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system for virtualizing images. Multiple images are shadowed (*i.e.*, copied) into portions of the physical address space of system memory. A mapping mechanism is effected to map all of the images into a common virtual address space, wherein images in the virtual address space are overlapped, thus enabling the images to be logically stored in a portion of virtual memory having a size less than the aggregated size of the images. In some embodiments, the images comprise option ROM images, which are shadowed into system memory during the pre-boot of a computer system. Due to legacy requirements, the option ROM images must be logically located in a limited portion of virtual memory (*i.e.*, the common virtual address space). The embodiments enable a large number of option ROM images to be shadowed at the same time. In one embodiment, system hardware is programmed by firmware to effect a dynamic mapping between virtual pages at which an image is logically located to physical pages where the image is physically located.